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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/494,332	01/28/2000	Kevin M. Gorman		3281

7590 03/06/2002
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EXAMINER

GOLDBERG, JEANINE ANNE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1634

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No. 09/494,332	Applicant(s) GORMAN ET AL.
Examiner Jeanine A Goldberg	Art Unit 1634

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

- 1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on 19 February 2002. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
- 2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

- 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
- 4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
- 5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
- 6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
- 7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: 25 and 46.

Claim(s) objected to: 32,34,36,38,40 and 42.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-24,26,31,33,35,37,39,41 and 43-45.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

- 8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- 9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
- 10. Other: _____

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

The examiner has fully considered to request for reconsideration and the declaration by Gorman. The arguments and the declaration are not found persuasive. When all of the evidence is considered, the totality of the rebuttal evidence of nonobviousness fails to outweigh the evidence of obviousness. As provided by MPEP 716.02(e), "An affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 must compare the claimed subject matter with the closest prior art to be effective to rebut a prima facie case of obviousness. In re Burckel, 592 F.2d 1175, 201 USPQ 67 (CCPA 1979)." The instant declaration, while providing a comparison, compares a multiplex reaction with primers of SEQ ID NO: 1-5, wherein primers 1-2 are directed to the 5'NC region of HCV with a multiplex reaction with primers 3-5 and primers directed to the 3'NC region of HCV. The obviousness rejection of record is directed to picking primers within the 5'NC region of HCV and HIV. Thus, illustration that a multiplex reaction with primers in the 3'NC region is not the closest prior art. A comparison between alternative primers within the 5'NC would be the closest prior art.

Additionally, the declaration directed to specific SEQ ID NO: 1-5 are not commensurate in scope with the claims. As provided by MPEP 716.02 (d), "Whether the unexpected results are the result of unexpectedly improved results or a property not taught by the prior art, the "objective evidence of nonobviousness must be commensurate in scope with the claims which the evidence is offered to support." In other words, the showing of unexpected results must be reviewed to see if the results occur over the entire claimed range." The claims are broadly drawn to probes and primers comprising SEQ ID NO: 1-7, for example. The primers consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-5 is not commensurate in scope with primers comprising SEQ ID NO: 1-5.



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